

Established February, 1845.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.







The *Manila* left Aberdeen Dock to-day, and the *Arabie* will leave Cosmopolitan Dock to-morrow. The *Titan* will enter Cosmopolitan Dock to-morrow, and the *Mejoo* will go to Aberdeen Dock to-morrow.

The *Nam-ri* arrived here early this morning from Tonquin, the cause of the delay in her arrival being her lengthened detention at Haiphong. The letters of our correspondent confirm the impression that the French will not attack Bac-ninh until they are heavily reinforced. It is now quite certain that the bulk of the Black Flags who defended Sontai escaped, and they may yet give the French trouble. Our correspondent gives an exceedingly graphic description of the great fire and explosion of ammunition at Hanoi. It is probable it was this disaster which gave rise among the Chinese to the reports that the Black Flags had blown up the French at Sontai.

The following is a copy of a note received by Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, Senior Police Magistrate, from the Hon. W. H. Marsh, Colonial Secretary:

"I am directed by the Governor, Sir George Bowen, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., reporting the result of the proceedings at the meeting of the Justices of the Peace convened for the purpose of nominating a member for the Legislative Council."

"I am to convey to you His Excellency's satisfaction with the manner in which you conducted the proceedings, and his acknowledgement of the vote of thanks to himself."

"The Governor will have much pleasure in appointing the gentleman nominated, Mr. F. D. Sassoon, to be an unofficial member of the Council."

No tidings of the *Hwei Yuen* are yet to hand. The *Lee Yuen* arrived from Shanghai this afternoon, but though she was kept as near the coast as possible as far as Tientsin, with the hope of seeing something of her missing consort, nothing of the *Hwei Yuen* was observed. The general impression in Shanghai is that the *Hwei Yuen* has been taken possession of by the Chinese who were on board her when she left. On enquiry, we learn that no gunboat or vessel of any kind has been seen in search of her. It is, perhaps, China's duty in the present instance to send a vessel in quest of the missing steamer, the *Hwei Yuen* being under the Chinese flag, but we think that the British authorities would not exceed their duty if they despatched one of their war vessels to cruise round the coast in search of a vessel, whose crew and passengers may be in the direst need of succour and assistance.

We regret to hear that the Soldiers and Sailors' Rest in Queen's Road East, established by Mr. Sharp and other gentlemen, who take an interest in the welfare of our military and naval defenders, has received so little countenance from those whom it was intended to benefit that it has now been reluctantly closed by its promoters. The Rest was intended to serve as a welcome halting place for soldiers or sailors on leave, where they could enjoy a smoke and a chat, a read of the papers, or engage in a game of billiards or cards, or partake of temperance refreshments at a purely nominal charge. No profit was intended to be made out of the concern, and, as the premises were given for the purpose rent free, it is apparent that the charges must have been very low. Notwithstanding, the place has been but poorly patronised, and after keeping it open, at a loss, for seven months, it has now been closed. Great disappointment was felt by many of the sailors that no bids could be procured on the premises, and it is thought that if a number of these could have been placed in the house, the Rest would have been able to pay its own way. If it were possible to open a similar institution in the central part of the town, which is much more largely frequented by soldiers and sailors, great good and success might result.

On Monday we published a telegram stating that the Egyptian Government had sent a vigorous note to the British Government stating that if England refused to assist in the suppression of the insurrection in the Sudan, the eastern portion of that territory would be given up by Egypt to Turkey. The British Government have not been long in replying to this "vigorous" note. Yesterday we published another telegram stating that the British Government had, in effect, informed the Egyptian rulers that England had no objection to Turkey obtaining something more than a suzerainty over this portion of the Sudan territory if the Porte was prepared to do what apparently the Khedive is unable to do—suppress the insurrection of the Fellaheen. Probably the Egyptians are now reconsidering the policy of their "vigorous" note. The British Government would, it seems to us, be acting very foolishly in sending a strong force of troops to restore order in a vast and almost uncivilized country, which Egypt is unable to keep under control, and the status of which is no particular concern of the English Government. There would be very little glory in such an expedition, and no recompense. Consequently if Turkey, the external power in Egypt, cares to undertake the task of overthrowing the Mahdi, by all means let her do it; if she is successful, the British position in Egypt will scarcely be changed, and Turkey will, perhaps, only have discharged herself to a tributary state. England can have no object in keeping in check Turkish influence in Upper Egypt.

Returns of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending 6th Jan., 1884:—		
European.	Chinese.	Totals.
Monday, 27.	463	2,447
Tuesday, New Year's Day	553	
Wednesday, 34.	608	
Thursday, 47.	362	
Friday, 32.	371	
Saturday, 38.		
Sunday, 178		
Grand total 2,625.		

In case a brigade, composed of 3,600 men, should be sent to Tonquin, it is very probable that General Brinade Pilsa, of the Marine Infantry, will be appointed as brigadier of the expeditionary corps. The command in chief of the land forces will, in all probability, be given to a General of Division of the land army.—*Straits Times*.

This following telegram appears in the *Straits Times*:

London, Dec. 23.—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to a deputation, announced the introduction of a Bill to extend Country Franchise.

London, Dec. 24.—The Marquis de Tressan is about to return to London. There has, however, been no rupture of Diplomatic relations as yet.

General Millot has sailed from Toulon.

For full thoroughness, give us French law in preference to any other. A few weeks ago some convicts were tried at Noumea.

One of them has now got sentences which reach to the year 2038, after which he has to go through 105 years' police surveillance.

As it is probable he will go on offending the authorities, and getting sentences, he seems to have small chance of being liberated in time to attend the general judgment. So his lot is rather enviable than otherwise.

—*Sydney Bulletin*.

The very latest fashionable craze is the "surprised eyebrow." The process by which it is formed is very simple, consisting of just a few strokes to arch the brow over each eye into the expression which marks astonishment. And the general object is to cause the wearer to look as surprised as if she had just bobbed up against a pirate's chest, or caught her husband napping the lady cook behind the pantry door. The next day will probably be the disgusted too-much, and this can be formed in an instant, by the lady accidentally kicking her toe against the heel of a chair as she tramps about in the dark back-lane to look for baby's feeding-bottle.—*Sydney Bulletin*.

The Governor of the Straits Settlements has been suffering from a severe attack of fever. The *Straits Times* of the 20th Dec. says:—

"We learn on enquiry at Government House, that yesterday, Christmas Day, His Excellency's fever had increased, and he passed a very restless night. To-day, however, all the symptoms have moderated, and we are happy to say that the fever is disappearing. It is unfortunate too, that at the time of the Governor's illness, Lieut. Cholmondeley, the Aide-de-Camp, is also laid up with fever. His Excellency wishes this to be intimated to explain delay in answering letters, &c. We are glad to be able to report that Lieut. Cholmondeley is now nearly convalescent."

Says the *Pull Mall Gazette*—China must be rapidly adapting herself to the institutions of the West, seeing that the latest device of commercial genius known as "cornering" is being practised in that country. In Shanghai there is a certain Mandarin Hossiaman, who, with a little practice, promises to rival in the daring of his speculations Mr. Morris Ranger. During the last week it was discovered that the crop had been over-estimated, and Hossiaman led a speculative movement among the Chinese by which prices were quickly run up. The European crop, however, had not been reckoned with, and these proving full on the markets relapsed. When settling time came nearly one-half of the usual dealers were compelled to suspend payments, and prices would have fallen still further had Hossiaman not continued to purchase in order to protect his already large stock. At the time of the issue of the report a few months back he was the owner of a stock of about 15,000 bales, representing a lock-up of about £1,250,000.

## THE FRENCH MILITARY OPERATIONS IN TONQUIN.

RECONNAISSANCE FROM SONTAI.

RETURN OF THE TROOPS TO HANOI.

DISASTROUS FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS AT HANOI.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Hanoi, 28th Dec.

On the 19th inst., two days after the occupation of the citadel of Sontai, by the French troops, Admiral Courbet and his staff returned to Hanoi on the *Plevier*, accompanied by one of the smaller gunboats and the transport *Rivi-mart*, with about 350 men of the marine infantry. By that time order had been restored in the captured citadel, but it was considered advisable to scout the surrounding country in search of any remaining Black Flags, and Colonel Bichot, of the marine infantry, who had been left in command, started out on a reconnaissance with a force of fifteen hundred men from Sontai on this morning of the 20th inst. The new citadel, some three miles from Sontai, to which it was believed some of the routed garrison had made their escape, was found to be in an unfinished condition and entirely deserted. Hung-cha, or Hung-ho, a small citadel about ten miles up the Songkoi, above Sontai, was also found to be unoccupied, but since then it is believed that a few Black Flags have collected there, and orders have been given to the Annamite officials of the town and neighbourhood to destroy the citadel within fifteen days, otherwise it will be "bombaraded" by the gunboats. The remainder of the country for ten or fifteen miles around Sontai is quite clear of the enemy, and the Annamite population of the neighbourhood are not fully coming in to offer their allegiance to the victors, but continue to bring in, as prisoners, any Chinese stragglers upon whom they can lay hands.

The 19th inst. was celebrated in Hanoi as a day of general rejoicing and it certainly contrasted most favourably with the

fatal 19th May, when Hanoi lay panic-stricken with the dreaded Black Flags at the gates of the Concession. Admiral Courbet was received with cheers from both the civilians and the military who had gathered at the landing place to see him disembark, for there is no doubt that the comparatively easy success of the expedition under his command was as unexpected as it was satisfactory. It was expected that the victory would have been far more dearly bought than proved to be the case, and from statements made by some of the Annamite population, it would appear that there was a good share of luck in the affair. These reports are to the effect that great dissatisfaction existed between the Black Flags and their Annamite allies at Sontai, and that several Annamite officers of the latter had been executed by the order of Liu Hing Fok for alleged lukewarmness in the anti-foreign cause. It is only by accepting this theory that it is possible to account for the evacuation of the citadel of Sontai by its garrison on the night of the 18th. Most of the dead found inside were Annamites, while the defenders of the out-works, notably that of Phu-to, the taking of which cost the French so dear, were almost entirely Black Flags. Had the defence of the citadel, which is a fortification of great strength, been maintained with the determination and pluck evinced at Phu-to, it is possible that the French forces might be still engaged before Sontai, and it is certain that to take it by assault would have cost more lives than the total of the actual loss, which is now stated at three hundred and fifty killed and wounded, out of which thirty were officers. Any official list of the casualties I have been unable to obtain.

I have still been debarred from visiting Sontai, although all operations there are concluded. I might have gone up in a native sampan, at considerable risk, but as the entrance to the citadel is strictly guarded and no one admitted without a written permit from headquarters, which has been refused to all correspondents, I cannot now give you a description of the place. At present, from all accounts, the town and citadel is in a horrible condition owing to the unburied or half-buried bodies of the dead, which render the air all around pestilential. The Annamites employed in this work throw the corpses into the river or the nearest pool of water, while those remains that are interred are all only put in a shallow hole and a little earth thrown over the top. The actual number of Chinese and Annamites killed during the four days' operations is estimated at rather more than two thousand, and as, according to the latest information received on the subject, the entire force at Sontai amounted to twelve thousand men, it is clear that a large proportion of the Black Flags have escaped, and may be expected to give further trouble to the French forces. Some of the refugees are believed to have gone higher up the river, towards Lao-kai, while many of them have probably found their way to Bac-ninh. One of the immediate effects of the fall of Sontai was the withdrawal of the Chinese force which attempted to cross the Songkoi at the black-house opposite Hanoi and whose night attacks had spoiled our sleep during the progress of the operations at Sontai.

After the three days' reconnaissance made by Colonel Bichot, the greater part of the troops and the gunboats returned to Hanoi, leaving about one thousand men to hold Sontai.

The arrangements for the wounded during the operations were decidedly more efficiently planned and carried out than on any former occasion during the campaign. The transport *Rivi-mart* was fitted up as hospital ship and formed the head-quarters of the medical department, while a number of coolies had been enrolled into an ambulance corps, under the direction of the doctors, to carry the wounded from the field to the steamer.

Amongst the spoils found in Sontai was a considerable quantity of treasure, in the form of silver bars, amounting in value to about thirty thousand dollars. A large number of cartridges for Remington and Snider rifles were taken, as well as some hundreds of rifles. Several of the guns found bore the stamp of the Poodwah Arsenal. One huge piece of artillery, more than twelve feet in length, which had been mounted in one of the forts, had also been turned out of the same factory, though how it was transported to Sontai is a mystery. A number of important documents, relating to correspondence between Hue and Sontai and the Chinese Government officials, were found in the house formerly inhabited by Liu-hang-Fuk, and amongst other papers bills of lading from Tientsin to Hanoi for treasure and ammunition. Many cases of cartridges appeared from these documents to have been imported and passed through the Hanoi customs as condensed milk. Several of the Chinese and Annamite residents in Hanoi are implicated in these transactions and though not at present arrested will probably shortly be seized. It was at first reported that Liu-hang-Fuk was wounded during the engagement, but the report appears to be without foundation. His next in command, a chief who at one time belonged to the Yellow Flags, was, however, killed. Liu himself, mounted on a white pony, was at one time, during the fighting on the 15th, face to face with Admiral Courbet, with only a ditch or moat between them. He is supposed to have retreated with the host of his men to Lao-kai, or some other post of the Black Flags up the Red River.

On the 20th inst. M. Treou paid a flying visit to Hanoi and Sontai, leaving again on the 23rd to catch the French mail steamer in Haiphong for Europe. M. Harmand, who had been waiting at Hanoi lately only to see the issue of the Sontai operations, also left Hanoi on the 23rd. He went down to Haiphong on the *Carabac*, a small gunboat, and was saluted with a salvo of 18 guns from the *Plevier*, who manned her yards on the occasion. Little interest was displayed in regard to him either by the military or civil population, whose only feelings seem to be a mild satisfaction at his departure and a hope that they have seen the last of him in Tonquin. In his former capacity of consul at Bangkok, M. Harmand was much respected and liked, but promotion to the more responsible post of actual governor of Tonquin appears to have turned his head.

Only a day or two after the return of the greater part of the victorious French army from Sontai the elation and rejoicings of the residents of Hanoi received a sudden check and were turned to consternation and lamentation by a serious disaster, which occurred in the newly-erected European part of the town, just outside the Concession. At about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 27th instant, an explosion, followed by an outbreak of flames, occurred at the artillery workshop, which is situated near the river-side, close to the entrance to the Concession. After the first outbreak of the fire explosion followed explosion with startling rapidity and it was impossible to make any attempt to extinguish the flames which had, in a few minutes, enveloped the whole building, constructed entirely of bamboo and timber. The cause of the conflagration was very soon known, and added to the alarm and panic already experienced by all the residents in the neighbourhood. On the preceding day a large quantity of ammunition, including several hundred cases of shells, rifle cartridges, and powder, had been disembarked from the lighter *Car-cam*, just returned from Sontai, and had been temporarily stored alongside the artillery workshops and forgo. A spark thrown from the latter during the shoeing of a horse set fire to some bamboo shavings or chips, which ignited one of the boxes of ammunition. As the latter exploded one after another they carried destruction all around, the shells bursting in the air and scattering their fragments in all directions for a distance of several hundred yards. A space of about six acres in extent, on which had been erected the stores and houses of many of the most enterprising civilians of Hanoi, as well as the barns and stables of the artillery, was in the course of about two hours reduced to a "waste of ashes. Although several fatigues parties of troops were at once on the ground to do all possible to arrest the spread of the fire, it was for some time quite impossible to approach near the source and centre of the conflagration as a perfect bombardment was being effected by the cases of shells as they were, one after another, ignited by the burning debris which fell upon them. The bam- buildings on the outskirts of the area encompassed by the flames were pulled down, and destroyed and the spread of the fire thus limited. The occupants of the barracks, as well as the civilians in the neighbouring houses, had no time to spare to make any attempt to save their effects. It was a race for life, and unfortunately that was not in all cases successful. It was not until more than an hour after the first explosion that it was possible to approach the seat of the fire, when nearly all the explosives had burst and had done their work, and by that time the scene presented a complete waste of still burning ashes with a few smouldering bamboo posts standing to mark what had previously been the chief business portion of Hanoi. The native city proper, which is separated from this part of the town by an embankment and massive brick gateway, fortunately escaped from the fire, as did also the Concession, but neither were exempt from the effects of the bursting shells, pieces of which were to be found imbedded in the ground in all directions. The plug of a fuse shell fell outside the door of my room, just within the gates of the city, at the first explosion, and when the correspondent of the *Daily News* and myself went out to see what we could of the exciting scene, a shell exploded some twenty yards from the city gateway and lodged a piece of burning iron, a pound in weight, in the ground a foot in front of my companion, while another fraction of the same projectile struck an unfortunate Annamite coolie a few yards off, on the side of the head, and killed him on the spot. The number of casualties actually reported up to the present may be considered miraculously small when the extent and duration of the bombardment, as it actually was, is taken into consideration. Three men and one Annamite woman were killed and five or six men seriously wounded. One of the men killed, a French soldier, was wounded by a shell while escaping from the barracks, and was burnt in the building before he could be rescued. A powder magazine, in the immediate neighbourhood of the conflagration, was only saved by great exertion on the part of the soldiers; had it been ignited, probably not a house would have been left standing in the Concession or the neighbourhood and hundreds of lives must have been lost. The actual loss of property is, however, quite sufficiently serious as it is; all the plant and tools of the artillery and engineers, contained in the workshops, and carriages and equipments of a mountain

battery and several heavier pieces of artillery and more than one hundred cases of shells and cartridges, were utterly destroyed. The artillery barns and stables, and about a dozen private houses, stores and restaurants, belonging to several of the chief tradesmen of Hanoi, with all their stock and effects, have been demolished, and their unfortunate owners left with nothing in the world but the clothes they escaped in. Two of these unfortunate men had only recently been started in business at Hanoi for the second time, after having suffered the loss of their houses and goods by the burning or blowing up of their property by the French authorities after the 19th May last. Another loser had paid over the money for his house, which he had never yet occupied, only half an hour before the catastrophe occurred. Many of the cases are very hard, as anything in the way of insurance is impossible here, and great indignation is most justly felt at the unsoldierly and most inexplicable negligence of the official responsible for the transmission of the ammunition returned from Sontai. It is said that this material was unloaded from the lighter on the 26th and was stored either inside, or at the back of the workshop, only for the night, as carts were on their way from the citadel to transport it thither at the time the accident occurred. But what man in his senses would allow several tons of powder and charged projectiles to be stored in proximity to a blacksmith's forge? The officer responsible for this culpable recklessness should certainly consider himself fortunate if he escapes with an ignominious dismissal from the service. I have heard that the Admiral has promised to press for an indemnity from the Government to the civilian sufferers, as the terrible consequences were not the result of ordinary carelessness but were directly caused by the gross neglect or stupidity on the part of a Government official. It is certain, only just that some compensation should be made to the ruined unfortunate, but I fear that if any reparation be made, it will be after long delay. The total loss, independent of Government property, would probably be about \$60,000.

Information was received on the 26th that a large body of Annamites and Chinese were posted between the Bamboo post, on the Songkoi, and Nandinh, and the gunboat *Fanfare* was despatched down the river the same day, while a reinforcement of two companies of marine infantry were sent to Nandinh on the morning of the 27th by the transport *Rivi-mart*.

Haiphong, Jan. 5th.

Owing to the long delay in despatching the *s.s. Nam-tan* to Hongkong these lines will reach you at the same time as my last letter from Hanoi, and as no events of importance have transpired since then I shall have little to add.

I came down from Hanoi on the 23rd ult. by the launch *Tru-yi*, recently purchased in Hongkong by Messrs. Reque Feros, and not yet taken over by the French authorities. We had a quiet and pleasant run down, towing three cargo boats with us, and saw nothing of the pirates who are still to be found in considerable bands round about Mount Elephant. A considerable commotion was made at the Bamboo Post on the morning of the 23rd by information being received there that a large force of Annamites and Chinese were in the vicinity, probably the same band which attacked Hai-dung a month since, and which afterwards dispersed from the neighbourhood of Haiphong by the prompt action of Major Coronat. The telegraph line, erected along the river bank, is now completed between Hanoi and Nandinh, passing through the post at Bamboo village.

On the 30th ult. the transport *Mytha* arrived at Haiphong and the reinforcements brought out by her have since been transhipped by the *Duc and Saunc* and landed at Haiphong. These consist of four hundred and eighty men of the marine infantry, about two hundred sailors from the *Villars* and other men-of-war, for the naval brigade, and fifty men and three officers, with their horses, comprising half a squadron, of the Chasseurs d'Afrique. The latter are the first detachment of cavalry that have arrived in Tonquin, and will probably be found very useful in the forthcoming operations against Bac-ninh. On Sunday, the 30th ult., a parade of the troops comprising the garrison of Haiphong took place, when the men were carefully inspected by the commandant, Major Coronat. A great deal of soreness exists amongst the officers at Hanoi at the appointment of Lieut. Colonel Badane as chief of the staff of Admiral Courbet in place of Major Coronat, who held that post under General Beyer, and who is considered, by all who have had an opportunity of judging, to be in every respect more suited to execute satisfactorily the onerous duties of that most important position.

A number of the officers and men wounded during the operations at Sontai have since been sent down here and are being embarked on board the *Mytha* for return to France, as well as some of the time-expired men belonging to the marine infantry. Some movements among the troops at Hanoi have taken place during the last week, this being mainly for the purpose of changing the garrisons at Sontai, Phalan and Batang. At Sontai a reconnaissance was made across the river by a detachment of two companies, who encountered a force of some four or five hundred Chinese and Annamites. A short engagement ensued,

in which two of the French soldiers were wounded and about thirty of the enemy killed. With this exception all has been quiet at Sontai since the return of the main body of the troops to Hanoi.

The gunboats *Leopard* and *Lynx* have for some time past been cruising between Haidong and Bac-ninh, and on Christmas Day the former vessel came across a body of Annamite guerrillas about a thousand strong, while going up the river towards the entrance to the Bac-ninh Canal. The *Leopard* opened fire upon them, but was unable to land any men to follow them up. It was therefore impossible to know what damage was done to the band. Previous to this the same vessel had approached within a short distance of Bac-ninh and had shelled an outlying fort, which was afterwards entered by a landing party, and thoroughly dismantled, all the guns being thrown into the Canal.

Accounts as to the strength of Bac-ninh and the Chinese garrison there vary very considerably and it is at present quite uncertain whether an attack will be made there before the arrival of the three thousand men under the command of General Millot, who left France on the 23rd Dec., or not. At present, however, no movements have been made tending to that end, and if operations are not commenced before the 10th inst. it is almost certain that the attack will not be made before the second week of next month, as moonlight nights are considered by the French a great desideratum for operations in the field. Before that time, however, the new reinforcements will probably have arrived, and with them this new General, and it is possible the Admiral may come to the conclusion to risk all for the purpose of adding his laurels before he is supplanted in the general command.

The decoration of the Cross of the Legion of Honour has been pretty freely distributed amongst officers and others out here and amongst the last batch of *decorés* appear the names of Captain George, of Yellow Flag fame, and Messrs. Bonnal and Marquis, the Residents at Hanoi and Haiphong. The first-named gentleman without doubt deserves the honour as much as any officer in the French army in Tonquin, as the services rendered by him to the Government while organizing and commanding his corps of auxiliaries were invaluable, but what possible claim to the distinction can be found for Messrs. Bonnal and Marquis is a puzzle to all. The latter has discharged the oft-times unpleasant duties of his office without giving great offence, certainly, and has distinguished himself by going out on one or more occasions at the head of his invincible Tonquinese militia against the redoubtable pirates, but Messrs. Bonnal—of all the officials in Tonquin the most unpopular, the most officious and offensive, and whose only claim to distinction can be found in his readiness to assume and carry out the role of superintending executioner of the unfortunate natives who are accosted into his net. M. Bonnal was the man through whose execution, without trial, of a soldier of the Yellow Flags, the Government lost the valuable services of Captain George and his corps. The cross must indeed be getting cheap.

## SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before the Full Court and a Special Jury.)

Wednesday, Jan. 9.

ANSON AND ESMAL AND THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION v. MELCHERS & CO.—REHABILITATION.

The Attorney General (the Hon. E. L. O'Malley) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. J. J. Francis represented the defendants.

The following judgment was pronounced by the court:—Messrs. E. George, A. E. Vacher, P. A. de Costa, J. Bull-ivring, F. D. Assis Gomes, J. A. de Remedios and F. L. Tese. This action, which was brought to recover the sum of \$1,000 as compensation for loss sustained on the sale of a quantity of opium alleged to have been damaged through defendants' negligence in storing it improperly, was originally heard in July last, in the Summary Jurisdiction Court, by Mr. Justice Russell, who decided in favour of the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs are Messrs. Anson and Esmal, and the defendants are Messrs. Melchers & Co., at this point. The action was brought to recover damages for loss sustained on the sale of a quantity of opium alleged to have been damaged through defendants' negligence in storing it improperly, was originally heard in July last, in the Summary Jurisdiction Court, by Mr. Justice Russell, who decided in favour of the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs are Messrs. Anson and Esmal, and the defendants are Messrs. Melchers & Co., at this point.

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